

Matthew 13:44-46
The Treasure and The Merchant
August 4, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro - I've got a baseball story for you that goes back to 1905 in Salt Lake City.

The Rhyolites were playing the Beattys and the Beattys were up to bat. The batter hit the ball sharply toward 1st base. The 1st baseman, a man named William Griffiths, saw the ball coming his way, he was amazed to see it ricochet off a small stone and landing in his glove. He beat the runner to first easily.

The little stone had given Griffiths a lucky break, but he decided it had no business on the playing field, so he walked over and picked it up. He started to raise his hand to throw it off the field when something caught his eye. He took a careful look at the stone and recognized free gold in it. Then he quietly slipped it into his pocket and went on with the game.

That evening, he returned to the ball park with a lantern and dug around in the soil until had accumulated a bucketful of rocks. The bucket of rocks contained \$900 in gold. That same amount of gold would be worth \$58,000 today.

He called two friends and they quietly bought the ball park.

The mine was called First Base, and the first shaft entered paying ore at a depth of 33 feet. And William Griffiths was soon a very wealthy man.

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Matthew 13:44-46

v.44 - the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field...

v.45 - the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls...

1. The value of the kingdom of heaven.

v.44 - The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field

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v.44 - The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and *sells all that he has* and buys the field.

Romans 9:16 - It doesn't depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

Jesus: "What shall it *profit* a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?" (Mt.16:26)

2 Cor. 4:8 - The things that we see are temporary, but the things that we don't see are eternal.

Mark 10:21-22 - Jesus looked at him, loved him, and said to him, "There is one thing you lack: Go, sell everything you own and give to the poor, and you'll have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me." When the young man heard this, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Jesus: "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Matthew 19:29 - "Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for My sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life."

Philippians 3:7-8 - Whatever things were gain to me, I've counted as loss for the sake of Christ. I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I've lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.

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2. The cost of the kingdom of heaven.

Read v.45-46

Luke 19:10 - The Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost.

- You're not an afterthought or an accident.
- God didn't stumble over you and say, "*Okay, them too, I guess.*"

2 Cor. 8:9 - You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor.

Galatians 1:4 - Our Lord Jesus Christ gave Himself for our sins.

1. A pearl is a product of suffering.

2. A pearl is formed from something worthless.

Titus 3:3 - At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

1 Cor. 6:11 - But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

3. A pearl is changed by the covering it receives.

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1 Peter 1:18-19 - It wasn't with perishable things... that you were redeemed... but with the precious blood of Christ.

4. A pearl grows gradually.

Phil. 1:6 - He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it.

5. A pearl is valuable.

God loves you so much that He left heaven and became a man...